

Stop & Reed

June 2013

San Joaquin Valley Chapter American Guild of Organists

A Glimpse into Final Events for the Season

The **SJVChapter/Keyboard Concerts Organ Artist Series** in early May presented the outstanding gifts of first class recitalist and composer for organ, **Christoph Bull**. His feet and fingers were electric in creating excitement and momentum with great clarity throughout his concert of music by both Bach and Bull. (You can hear him at the **Bakersfield Region IX Convention** if you missed his Fresno appearance.)

Here we are at the June finish line, with three wonderful events in store this last month:

- 1) our local gathering on **Guild Sunday** to celebrate our avocation as organists of all ages.
- 2) our **Region IX Convention** in Bakersfield which many of our members and spouses will be attending (It is not too late to sign up!) It is full of valuable educational classes and rewarding concerts by top artists.
- 3) the concert by generous and talented member **Margaret Licon** to benefit our chapter's **Organ Scholarship Fund**.

Read ahead in this issue to learn the details of each of these three events and please support them with your attendance.

I will report later on my visit to the **Organ Historical Society Convention** in the Burlington area of Vermont, which is, unfortunately, the same week as our Region IX Convention. I've heard all the Bakersfield Convention site organs and I know you will enjoy their great variety and quality.

Happy Summer to each of you and thank you for your participation!

Dean Laurell

Executive Board 2012-2013

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News & Articles

Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 16 at 10 am

Home of Lynda Roberts
6032 N. 6th
Fresno, CA. 93710

Members are welcome to join in planning the next season of events.

Memorial Service for Wes Nelson

Dear all:

For those of you who haven't heard, I regret to inform you that Wes passed away on Monday, 15 April 2013.

The memorial service will be held at the **First Congregational Church** in Fresno on **Sat. 6th July 2013 at 3:00** followed by a reception in the church fellowship hall. The church is at the corner of Van Ness Blvd. and Yale, 2131 N. Van Ness Blvd.

I hope you can come.

Jeanne

What Happened to CCYPAC this year?

If you read the recently instituted set of Guidelines for **CCYPAC** in the attachments sent with the **May Stop & Reed** issue, you will understand part of the reason for no actual event this past May 19.

- 1) Most of our youngest local organists at present fall into either the new non-competitive Preparatory Division (grades 4-8) or
- 2) those very active past participants about to graduate from high school or college, distracted by finishing important projects and assignments, while preparing for their next chapter --- too busy to participate in the CCYPAC.

There were several Preparatory Division entrants, but only one competitive College applicant. This was a highly unusual situation in the history of CCYPAC. Since a competition requires at least two performers, it could not happen.

Dr. Andreas Werz, president of **Keyboard Concerts**,

which is our partner in this event, has graciously supported the board's decision to postpone CCYPAC until next season.

Our scholarship funds continue to grow, thanks to the monetary donations of so many of our AGO members and friends. There is a whole new generation of talented junior organists just around the corner who will gradually be eligible to compete in the High School Division, ready to receive prizes!

We all have a story...

the first time we heard an organ

an organist who inspired us

a student we had the opportunity to work with and how we grew from that experience

an organ composition that moved us deeply

a chapter event or convention that is one of our favorite memories

our most memorable experience playing the organ for worship

our best working experience with other musicians

our best working experience with clergy

The better we know each other, the better we work together. The better we work together, the stronger the future of the organ. If you have a story you'd like to share, post it on our **Region IX Facebook page**, or email it to me and I'll post it for you.

Leslie Wolf Robb, CAGO

AGO Region IX Councillor, Convener of the Regional Councillors

North Fresno Church Job Announcement

Position Title: Pastor of Worship and Music

North Fresno Church is seeking a person to serve on their pastoral staff. This Pastor of Worship and Music is responsible for giving leadership to all elements (except preaching) of North Fresno Church's classic service. Leadership includes planning the weekly service, directing the choir, leading worship and music, and equipping others to be involved in this ministry.

NFC is a member of the **Mennonite Brethren** denomination. The congregation has approximately 350-400 attendees in two services on a weekly basis, with a traditional style of worship in the **classic service** and **contemporary style** in the other (roughly 125 people attend the classic service and 250 attend the contemporary). The church is located in an **urban** area of Fresno, California, and takes a **missional posture** serving a community of diverse social, economic and ethnic individuals and families.

This is a **part-time position** (20 hours/week). Compensation will be adjusted for candidate's experience and education. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

See the PDF attachment to the email that this issue of Stop & Reed came in for more information.

Guild Sunday

The Guild Sunday program will feature three graduating seniors. **Matt Hartwig** graduating from Washington Union, and as Valedictorian. Matt will continue his studies at Redlands majoring in Biology and minoring in Music, studying organ with Fred Swann. **Thomas Melton Jr.** will complete current studies at Fresno City College and will be attending Southern Adventist University studying Theology and Conducting. The School just happens to have a 4 manual **John Brombaugh Tracker organ** of 79 stops and 107 ranks. **Cactus Harris** has just graduated Fresno State with a degree in Music Cum Laude and will be returning for a masters in Conducting. **Luke Shrestia** graduates from Fowler High and will attend California State, Northridge studying commercial music with organ as principal instrument but he will be unable to attend because of Fowler baccalaureate. Congratulations go as well to **Sheridan Haskell** who graduated from Liberty University online and will continue studies in the Master of Music in Historical Performance program at Boston

University. Since the Easton Organ contains an antiphonal organ of six stops with a separate one manual and pedal console we will hear them used together. An added feature will be Baritone Extraordinaire **Earl Meyers**. Earl serves as organist of Central Seventh Day Adventist Church along with co organist **Thomas Melton Jr.** You all will contribute as the great choir. We look forward to a great time.

Richard Cencibaugh

Chapter Colleague Scholarship Awarded

Luke Shrestha has been awarded the Chapter's **2013 Collegiate Scholarship** after successfully auditioning in late May. Luke graduates this spring from Fowler High School and will study organ in conjunction with a Commercial Music major at CSU Northridge.

With a varied background in music since early childhood, Luke began organ study with **Laurell Huber** at age eight. He has been active in high school musical groups, as a participant in many local keyboard competitions, and as keyboardist/organist at the **Covenant Church** (Kingsburg) and **Fowler's Presbyterian Church**. Related interests range from drums and guitar to choral music, composing, and jazz. Luke is the son of Wendy and Alex Shrestha of Fowler.

The **SJV/AGO Collegiate Scholarship**, up to the amount of \$1500, may be awarded annually to a student enrolled for study of the organ. Requirements are based on AGO guidelines for earning of the Colleague-Level certificate, as posted yearly in the July issue of **The American Organist** and online at agohq.org. More information can be obtained from **Andrea Belau** at landabelau@att.net.

Congratulations, Luke, and best wishes as you continue your musical career.

Andrea Belau, for the Collegiate Scholarship Committee

Upcoming Events

Guild Sunday

June 2 at 3 pm

Easton Presbyterian Church 5825 S. Elm, Fresno
Two organs!

CCYPAC winners will be featured.

AGO Region IX Convention

June 24-26
Bakersfield, CA

June 23rd 7PM - pre-convention concert by **Hector Olivera**
June 27th 10AM - post-convention concert by **Dorothy Young Reiss**

bakersfieldago2013.org

June 20, 2013 – last day to register online

Monday, June 24, 2013 - Music in the Hotel Lobby
Enjoy lovely music while you register for the Convention!

Featured Convention Organs

St. John's Lutheran Church

Werner Bosch Organbuilders
Kassel, Germany
1990
Three Manuals
50 Ranks

Olive Drive Church

Aeolian-Skinner/Robert Turner Organ
Originally from The Memorial Church Harvard University
1932/1988
Four manuals
133 Ranks, Opus 885

St. Paul's Anglican Church

Schantz Organ Company, 1996
Three manuals, 38 Ranks

First Presbyterian Church

Austin/Rodgers Pipe/Digital Combination Organ
Austin Organ Company, 1984
Three Manuals, 44 Ranks
Rodgers Organ Company, 2009
Four Manuals, 180 Digital Ranks

First United Methodist

Schantz/Rodgers Pipe/Digital

Schantz Organ Company, 1972
Two manuals, 22 ranks

Rodgers Organ Company, 2011
Three manuals, 180 Digital ranks

Organ Recital – Benefit for SJVChapter Organ Scholarship Fund

June 29 at 3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church
1540 M Street
Fresno, CA.

Dr. Margaret Aurora Licon, Organ
Matthew Cockrum, Timpanist
Max Hembd, Trumpet
Dr. Walter Saul, Composer and Pianist

Donations toward SJVChapter, AGO Scholarship Fund

The American Guild of Organists will sponsor Dr. Margaret Aurora Licon in an organ recital to be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 29, 2013 at 3:00 pm.

Admission is free but a free-will offering will be taken, the proceeds of which will go toward the AGO Student Scholarship Fund.

Featured on the program will be a specially commissioned work for organ and timpani composed by local composer and educator, Dr. Walter Saul, Professor of Music at Fresno Pacific University. Timpanist is Matt Cockrum of Clovis and trumpet will be played by First Pres Brass Conductor Max Hembd. Other organ selections include works by JS Bach, Herbert Howells, Kenneth Leighton and the program will conclude with the Toccata from the Fifth Organ Symphony of Widor.

The AGO plays a critical role in the contemporary church today by providing a venue for budding organists who will hopefully continue the sacred tradition of keeping the "King of Instruments" as an active participant in today's worship service. The program is dedicated toward building the scholarship fund that will support these young musicians.

Dr. Licon is the organist at First Presbyterian, a member of the AGO and a student of Richard Cencibaugh.